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## INTRODUCTORY NOTE

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It is with pride that the United Nations Asia and Far East Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders (UNAFEI) offers to the international community the Resource Material Series No. 66.

This volume contains the Annual Report for 2004 and the work produced in the 126th International Senior Seminar that was conducted from 13 January to 12 February 2004. The main theme of this Seminar was, "Economic Crime in a Globalizing Society ~ Its Impact on the Sound Development of the State".

Rapid economic globalisation has brought with it an increase in global economic crime. In addition to conventional types of economic crime, such as corruption and embezzlement, new types have emerged facilitated by the rapid spread of new technologies, such as the internet. These new types of crimes, and new methods of perpetrating conventional crimes, have become more complicated and in turn more difficult to combat. Economic crime distorts market forces and can thus have a very detrimental effect on a country's economy; due to its transnational nature it is important for the international community as a whole to act together to combat this menace.

The United Nations recognizes that the prevention of crime is a crucial factor for the establishment of international order and has recently placed priority on tackling economic crime. The U.N. 11<sup>th</sup> Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, held in Thailand in April this year, included the agenda item "Economic and Financial Crimes: Challenges to Sustainable Development". UNAFEI, as a United Nations regional institute, and the Swedish National Economic Crimes Bureau organized a workshop at the 11<sup>th</sup> Congress on "Measures to Combat Economic Crime, Including Money Laundering". In view of the importance of this issue, and our involvement in the above mentioned workshop, UNAFEI decided to focus on economic crime for this 126<sup>th</sup> International Senior Seminar.

In this issue, papers contributed by visiting experts, selected individual presentation papers from among the Seminar participants, and the Group Workshop Reports are published. I regret that not all the papers submitted by the Seminar participants could be published.

I would like to pay tribute to the contributions of the Government of Japan, particularly the Minister of Justice and the Japan International Cooperation Agency, and the Asia Crime Prevention Foundation for providing indispensable and unwavering support to UNAFEI's international training programmes.

Finally I would like to express my heartfelt gratitude to all who so unselfishly assisted in the publication of this series; in particular, the editor of Resource Material Series No. 66, Mr. Simon Cornell (Linguistic Adviser).

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Director of UNAFEI